

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 780 without my signature.

While I understand the author's intention is to address the need for a qualified physician workforce in underserved communities, this bill is unnecessary to meet that objective.

The University of California (UC) system already considers an applicant's background and personal experiences during the application process. The criteria outlined in the bill were drawn largely from existing UC medical school admissions policies and description of best practices in medical school admissions, written by the University of California experts at the invitations of a national medical organization. It is unclear how codifying the admissions criteria will significantly improve the admissions process, as the University of California is currently in compliance with the overall intent of the bill: increasing the number of physicians likely to serve in underrepresented communities.

Furthermore, the 2005 Budget appropriates \$300,000 specifically to support additional slots in the Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community. The primary purpose of the program is to train physicians to serve in underserved communities. Full implementation is expected by 2008, when the additional enrollment will total approximately 300 new students - the equivalent of a new medical school devoted to serving the needs of currently underserved communities.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger